

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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6 p.m

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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Delaware readies for rains from Bonnie and Charlie

Residents advised to exercise preparedness

Tropical Storm Bonnie and Hurricane Charlie are predicted to bring heavy rains to Delaware even though the storms are expected to lose strength significantly before moving up to the Delmarva Peninsula. Officials of Delaware Emergency Management Agency and other state officials are monitoring the storms and coordinating communications to ensure that the state is prepared for the potential of localized flooding or other storm-related issues.

The National Weather Service predicts rains from Bonnie to arrive in Delaware after midnight Thursday and to continue throughout the day Friday. According to the weather service, there will be approximately a 24-hour break before rains from Charlie are over Delaware early Sunday morning.

Winds are not expected to be more than 20-25 mph, and rains not more than three to five inches with each storm, but to be on the safe side, emergency management officials remind the public to be prepared for possible power outages and road closures. Delawareans in all three counties are advised to have at least three days of bottled water and nonperishable food for family members and companion animals. Also, it is a good time to check batteries, flashlights and portable radios.

At this time, there is no indication Bonnie or Charlie will bring conditions requiring evacuation and sheltering, however, to be adequately prepared, the public is reminded to have extra cash and to keep cars gassed up.

The predicted rains from the storms are not expected to exceed two to five inches in each case, however, amounts can differ in localized areas. There is potential for some stream and creek flooding as well as heavy ponding in low-lying areas. Because of recent heavy rains in areas of northern Delaware, waterlogged soil might result in some downed trees; appropriate caution is advised.

DEMA and other state agencies will continue to monitor the weather and advise the public throughout the events.

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